

Remarks

In connection with the above-referenced patent application and in response to the Office Action dated June 29, 2006 in connection therewith, Applicant hereby amends the instant claims to overcome or render moot all of the outstanding rejections thereof. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in (previously pending) claims 5, 6, 12-16 and 20-21. Therefore, by way of this amendment, Applicant hereby

(i) amends claims 1 to incorporate all of the limitations of indicated allowable claim 5 and intervening claims 2-4 therein;

(ii) cancels claims 2-5;

(iii) amends indicated allowable claim 6 to incorporate all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 2-4;

(iv) cancels claim 11;

(v) amends indicated allowable claim 12 to incorporate all of the limitations of base claim 11;

(vi) amends claims 17, 19 and 20 to depend from claim 12 (rather than from previous and now canceled claim 11);

(vii) amends indicated allowable claim 21 to incorporate all of the limitations of base claim 11 and intervening claim 20; and

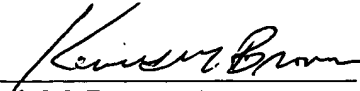
(viii) adds new dependent claims 23-26 (which depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 6).

Since claim 5 (which has been rewritten into amended independent claim 1), claim 6, claim 12 and claim 21 (each of claims 6, 12 and 21 having been rewritten in independent form) have each been indicated in the instant Office Action as comprising allowable subject matter, and since each of the now presently pending claims comprise at least the subject matter (including all of the limitations thereof) of at least one of these indicated allowable claims, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the presently pending claims (*i.e.*, independent claims 1, 6, 12 and 21, and dependent claims 7-10, 13-20 and 22-26), as currently amended, is now allowable, each of the outstanding rejections having been overcome or having been rendered moot.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of this submission. The Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney, Kenneth M. Brown, at (908) 582 – 5998, should there be any questions or issues for discussion in the reconsideration of the pending application.

Respectfully,

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